

Appl. No. 10/068,478
Amdt. dated May 12, 2005
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The proliferation of patients with multi-implant medical devices worldwide has made it imperative to provide remote services to the IMDs and timely clinical care to the patient. Frequent use of programmers to communicate with the IMDs and provide various remote services, consistent with co-pending applications titled "System and Method for Transferring Information Relating to an Implantable Medical Device to a Remote Location," filed on July 21, 1999, Ser. No. 09/358,081; "Apparatus and Method for Remote Troubleshooting, Maintenance and Upgrade of Implantable Device Systems," filed on October 26, 1999, Ser. No. 09/426,741, now U.S. Patent No. 6,442,433; "Tactile Feedback for Indicating Validity of Communication Link with an Implantable Medical Device," filed October 29, 1999, Ser. No. 09/430,708, now U.S. Patent No. 6,644,321; "Apparatus and Method for Automated Invoicing of Medical Device Systems," filed October 29, 1999, Ser. No. 09/430,208, now U.S. Patent No. 6,385,593; "Apparatus and Method for Remote Self-Identification of Components in Medical Device Systems," filed October 29, 1999, Ser. No. 09/429,956, abandoned in favor of application filed December 7, 2001, Ser. No. 10/010,406, now U.S. Patent No. 6,754,538; "Apparatus and Method to Automate Remote Software Updates of Medical Device Systems," filed October 29, 1999, Ser. No. 09/429,960, now U.S. Patent No. 6,363,282; "Method and Apparatus to Secure Data Transfer From Medical Device Systems," filed November 2, 1999, Ser. No. 09/431,881; "Implantable Medical Device Programming Apparatus Having An Auxiliary Component Storage Compartment," filed November 4, 1999, Ser. No. 09/433,477, now U.S. Patent No. 6,411,851; and "Remote Delivery Of Software-Based Training For Implantable Medical Device Systems," filed November 4, 1999, Ser. No. 09/437,615, now U.S. Patent No. 6,386,882, which are all incorporated by reference herein in their entirety, has become an important aspect of patient care. Thus, in light of the referenced disclosures, use of a PDM system as an interface mobile unit between an IMD and an expert data center is a significant advance over the prior art.